

Calendar No. 352

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2793

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2022

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

To reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act, to authorize States to use funds from that Act for administrative purposes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Highlands Conserva-
5 tion Reauthorization Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHLANDS CON-**
7 **SERVATION ACT.**

8 The Highlands Conservation Act (Public Law 108–
9 421; 118 Stat. 2375) is amended—

10 (1) in section 3—

1 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
2 follows:

3 “(1) HIGHLANDS REGION.—The term ‘High-
4 lands region’ means—

5 “(A) the area depicted on the map entitled
6 ‘The Highlands Region’, dated June 2004, up-
7 dated after the date of enactment of the High-
8 lands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2022
9 to comprise each municipality included on the
10 list of municipalities included in the Highlands
11 region as of that date of enactment, and main-
12 tained in the headquarters of the Forest Service
13 in Washington, District of Columbia; and

14 “(B) a municipality approved by the Direc-
15 tor of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
16 ice under section 4(e).”;

17 (B) in paragraph (3), by amending sub-
18 paragraph (B) to read as follows:

19 “(B) identified by a Highlands State as
20 having high conservation value using the best
21 available science and geographic information
22 systems; and”;

23 (C) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “; or”
24 and inserting “, including a political subdivision
25 thereof; or”; and

1 (D) by striking paragraphs (5) through
2 (7);
3 (2) in section 4—

4 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “in
5 the Study” and all that follows through the end
6 of the paragraph and inserting “using the best
7 available science and geographic information
8 systems; and”;

9 (B) in subsection (c), by amending para-
10 graph (5) to read as follows:

11 “(5) provides that land conservation partner-
12 ship projects will be consistent with areas identified
13 as having high conservation value in accordance with
14 the purposes described in section 2 in the Highlands
15 region.”;

16 (C) in subsection (e), by striking “fiscal
17 years 2005 through 2021” and inserting “fiscal
18 years 2023 through 2029”;

19 (D) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
20 section (g); and

21 (E) by inserting after subsection (d) the
22 following:

23 “(e) REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL MU-
24 NICIPALITY.—The Director of the United States Fish and
25 Wildlife Service may, at the request of a Highlands State,

1 with the concurrence of the municipality, approve the in-
 2 clusion of a municipality within the State as part of the
 3 Highlands region.

4 “(f) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

5 “(1) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.—The Sec-
 6 retary of the Interior may not expend more than
 7 \$300,000 for the administration of this Act in each
 8 fiscal year.

9 “(2) STATE ADMINISTRATION.—A State that
 10 receives funds under this section for a land con-
 11 servation partnership project may not use more than
 12 5 percent of the funds to administer the land con-
 13 servation partnership project.”;

14 (3) in section 5—

15 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “the
 16 Study, Update, and any future study that the
 17 Forest Service may undertake in”;

18 (B) in subsection (b)—

19 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in-
 20 cluding a Pennsylvania and Connecticut
 21 Update”; and

22 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “the
 23 findings” and all that follows through the
 24 end of the paragraph and inserting “with

1 stakeholders regarding implementation of
2 the program; and”;

3 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “2005
4 through 2014” and inserting “2023 through
5 2029”; and

6 (4) in section 6, by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(f) APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an ap-
10 praisal related to a land acquisition carried out
11 under this Act, a Highlands State shall use an ap-
12 praisal methodology approved by the Secretary of
13 the Interior.

14 “(2) ALTERNATIVE APPRAISAL METHOD-
15 OLOGY.—A Highlands State may petition the Sec-
16 retary of the Interior to consider an alternative ap-
17 praisal methodology when there is a conflict, in any
18 Highlands State, between—

19 “(A) an appraisal methodology approved
20 by the Secretary of the Interior under para-
21 graph (1); and

22 “(B) applicable State law.”.

Passed the House of Representatives April 26, 2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

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